

## NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL FOR WOMEN BOARD MEETING MINUTES May 8, 2014

DENR Headquarters  
 217 W. Jones Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, Raleigh, NC 27610

Commission Members	Guests
Debbie West	Annette Hampton
Dena Barnes	Elizabeth Kline
Joyce Krawiec	Mark Bend
Karen Popp	Matt Donegan
Maggie Bizzell	Niel Sollod
Monica Awastshi	
Muriel Offerman	<b>Others Present</b>
Judge Robin Robinson	Gale McKoy Wilkins
Valerie Procopio	Jackie Jordan
	Tara Minter
	Daphne Pinto
	Pat Vaughn
	Jayce Williams

**I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:** Mrs. Gale McKoy Wilkins, Executive Director, North Carolina Council for Women (NC CFW), called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. She reviewed the council's mission and purpose: Its mission is to raise awareness state-wide of the impact of violence against women in North Carolina and community resources available to serve victims. She noted that the NC CFW monitors and distributes grants to agencies. NC CFW is the state's leading voice for helping to change the lives of women all over North Carolina. Mrs. Wilkins indicated that NC CFW region directors cover all 100 counties, collect and distribute information about the status of women, act as a resource for local and regional Councils/Commissions for Women, collaborate with other groups and individuals working on behalf of women in NC, and assure that necessary services, policies and programs are provided to those who need them.

**II. REVIEW OF COUNCIL MISSION AND PURPOSE:** See Below.

**III. REMARKS FROM BOARD CHAIRPERSON:** Chairwoman Debbie West welcomed everyone present and thanked them for supporting her. She reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the Council that were discussed in the October 2013 meeting. Mrs. West requested Council members support the CFW staff by participating in the special events. It was suggested that Council members should promote the NC CFW mission through social media.

Council members and staff introduced themselves. Council member Joyce Krawiec announced her recent appointment as the member of the NC Senate. She noted that she will need to recuse herself from issues regarding the Council work in the NC Senate but can advocate with fellow senators on



behalf of the Council for Women. She expressed that she is an active member on the Council for Women Board.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of the Council Meeting held on October 11, 2013 were presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Council member Dena Barnes and seconded by Council member Joyce Krawiec. Motion carried.

**V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Mrs. Gale McKoy Wilkins, Executive Director for the Council for Women, presented the division report as follows:

**Statistics on Human Trafficking (HT):** Mrs. Wilkins gave a brief overview on why North Carolina was a hotspot for HT. See attachment "A".

**Human Trafficking Event hosted by the NC CFW on March 31, 2014:** Mr. Kenneth Morris Jr. was the keynote speaker. Ms. Holly Austin Smith, author, speaker and human trafficking survivor, shared her experiences. This was a whole day event beginning at the South East Raleigh Magnet High School for middle and high school students, college students, parents and adults. The afternoon work sessions were held at the Hope Community Church, in Raleigh, and ended with a final presentation from the keynote speaker. Mrs. Wilkins noted that the event was successful. She shared information on a short DVD/Video "Chosen" and noted that the film focuses on HT recruiters and how easily youth can fall prey. Mrs. Wilkins expressed that the Council will view this film at the August 14, 2014 meeting.

**Grant application for HT project:** This project is to educate parents on internet safety including smart phone and social media use by children. Mrs. Wilkins indicated that most children have smart phones and no longer use computers at home. The grant helps educate parents to be proactive in protecting their children. She expressed that the number one reason is that children give out their names and location on their cell phones via social media.

**FVPSA Grant:** Partnering with the Department of Health and Human Services for the Family Violence Prevention & Services Act (FVPSA). The Council for Women will administer a grant for \$2.4 M for FVPSA. It was noted that there were about 85 shelters across NC. The Council for Women is currently funding 72 shelters. The anticipated funding will help assist NC domestic violence survivors. Mrs. Wilkins informed the Council that Mrs. Mary Williams Stover, Assistant Director for CFW, will be attending the 2014 FVPSA Summit in Maryland, Baltimore from May 12-14, 2014. In conclusion, Mrs. Wilkins defined *"what the CFW does and engages itself in"*.

**Graduation Event, May 27, 2014 (2-4 p.m.):** Mrs. Wilkins requested that the Council for Women Board members and the Domestic Violence Commission members participate in the Division's mission to collaborate with First Lady Ann McCrory, and the Durham Rescue Mission for this event. She indicated that 17-20 students will be graduating this year. She will be meeting the first lady tomorrow (May 9) and will forward additional information when possible.

**Update on Job Posting for Vacant Position:** The Southern Piedmont Region Director position based in Charlotte, NC is vacant and the CFW has received 127 applications. Mrs. Wilkins expressed that she will review applications and will select the best prospective candidates for interviewing. It was noted that the interview process to select the most qualified candidate will begin at the end of May, 2014.



**List-Serve Distribution:** The CFW continues to distribute a “bi-weekly Child Well-Being List-Serve” to individuals who have registered for the information on the CFW website. Approximately 531 people have registered for the list serve information summary.

**2014 Women’s Summit, Charlotte, NC:** Mrs. Wilkins informed the Council that she met with Senator Olympia Snowe, keynote speaker at the event.

**Women’s & Girls Initiative, September, 2014:** It was noted that the CFW wants to focus on preventing dating violence instead of intervention. Mrs. Wilkins noted that she will be attending the Power of Women meeting (POW) in August, 2014.

**2014 Women Veterans Summit & Expo, April 17, 2014:** The event was held at the NC National Guard, Raleigh, and addressed sexual assault in the military. The Council for Women participated in this event. The CFW vendor table provided handouts on the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault programs funded by the CFW, the Status on Women in NC fact sheet, and the Eastern Region factsheets.

**Displaced Homemaker Program (DH)/ Divorce Filing Fee (DFF) Services Program Transition:** *General Statute 7A-305 was revised in 2013 by the General Assembly.* This statute eliminated the DH appropriation, but maintained funding from DFF for the 35 programs across NC until June 30, 2014. This funding will now be directed to the NC Domestic Violence Center Fund. As administrator of the Domestic Violence Center Fund, CFW has the authority to define “other criteria” for grantees. The Division has taken steps and communicated with NC domestic violence grantees to ensure the job counseling, job training, education support and financial literacy services will continue for clients served by the agencies in FY 2014-2015. The anticipated increase of funds to domestic violence grantees was approximately \$8,000 per county. It was noted that there is a gap in services for women in transition and the programs that seek to support them. The Regional Directors are encouraging DV agencies to partner and collaborate with DH service providers.

Mrs. Wilkins concluded her presentation by informing the Council that the Division is looking into rebranding the Displaced Homemaker program with a new name: “*Women in Transition*”.

The Statistics Report (Attachment A) is attached and is an official part of the minutes.

**VI. TRANSITIONING WOMEN TO GREATNESS, DISPLACED HOMEMAKER PROGRAM:** Ms. Annette Hampton, Executive Director from Person County presented the following:

**Putting a face on the loss of funding, issues facing DH programs and their clients:** Ms. Hampton informed the Council that the program was established four years ago. Ms. Bernetta Thigpen, Regional Director from the NC CFW contacted her to participate in the DH program. She gave a brief overview on the initial stages along with the accomplishments.

**Council for Women Legislative Policy Issues – Ensuring services for women in transition: Job counseling/ job training/ education/ health and transportation:** Ms. Hampton noted that the program has seven employees (full time, part time workers, and volunteers). She indicated that the agency partners with Superior Quality for job training. Together they helped two hundred and seventeen (217) displaced homemaker clients in full time and part time jobs. Most of them are employed in the local company “GKN”. It was indicated that the agency has an influx of unemployed people. They train and

assist them in finding suitable jobs. She emphasized that the program is successful and that the loss of funding for the program will derail the established agency, and in turn Person County.

In addition, she noted that the loss in funding for the program will affect the service provided to displaced homemaker programs provided ***all over the state of North Carolina***.

Ms. Hampton gave details on how the clients do their internship at the facility. She noted that the agency helps, assists, and trains people to be more productive and improve their skill levels in the competitive job market. She expressed that they are an asset to Person County. In conclusion, Ms. Hampton shared appreciation letters from the clients.

#### **Comments and Suggestions from Commission members**

Chairwoman West asked clarifying questions on behalf of the Commission members as follows:

- Service: Ms. Hampton noted that the agency provides services to both men and women with job skills.
- Funding from General Assembly if continued: Ms. Hampton noted that the skills provided by the agency will give people a second chance through their collaborative effort with other agencies.
- Impact on the agency if funding is stopped: It was noted that the agency is operating on reduced funding this fiscal year. They suffered a significant reduction in funding. It was indicated that the agency received approximately \$20,000 this fiscal year. The funding is supported through Divorce Filing Fees appropriations. At the present time there is a filing fee of \$75 per divorce with \$40 of each divorce fee being issued to the domestic violence programs. This will change in FY2014 - 2015. The domestic violence programs will receive marriage license and all of the divorce filing fees. The DFF portion of funds issued to DV programs for FY 2012 - 2013 were discussed.
- Collaboration with other agencies and resources: Ms. Hampton expressed that the partnering agencies and other resources will also be affected through the loss of funding. They support each other and will not survive if funding is stopped.
- Name change for Displaced Homemaker Program was suggested: It was noted that the rebranded name will be "*Women in Transition*". This will be taken up to the General Assembly in June 2014. Mrs. Wilkins noted that the Council is seeking ways to help fund the program.

Chairwoman West thanked Ms. Hampton for her presentation and applauded the agencies work.

**VII. PHOTO SESSION/ RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING MEMBERS:** Council members took group pictures. There was no recognition of outgoing members.

*The meeting reconvened at 12:02 p.m.*

**VIII. PRESENTATION – BRIEFING REPORT ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN ROBESON COUNTY:** Mrs. Tara Minter, Research Assistant, NC CFW presented the following:

The Briefing Paper Report on the Status of Women in Robeson County is attached as "Attachment B" and is an official part of the minutes. The report is also available on the CFW website.

[http://www.councilforwomen.nc.gov/documents/RobesonCounty\\_R378.pdf](http://www.councilforwomen.nc.gov/documents/RobesonCounty_R378.pdf)

Feedback on Report with roll-out in July 2014 was discussed.

Progress and Challenges – One page fact sheet report on Robeson County was discussed. The report is attached as “Attachment C” and is an official part of the minutes. The report is also available on the CFW website [www.councilforwomen.nc.gov](http://www.councilforwomen.nc.gov). Mrs. Minter answered clarifying questions. She noted that Council read the Briefing Report and requested a recommendation.

CFW’s Advisory Board Legislative Policy Issues – *This item was moved to the end of the agenda.*

The CFW Board requested a map of North Carolina identifying the four regions and the counties marked.

Women’s health issues and the Go Red event were discussed.

**IX. PRESENTATION – STATEWIDE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN:** Ms. Elizabeth Kline, Wake County/WRAL/Fox 50 TV, Mr. Niel Sollod, Director of Local and News Media Sales, and Matt Donegan, General Sales Manager/ WRAL/ Fox 50 TV, presented the following:

- Preventing Violence and Child Trauma – Issues of domestic violence and sexual assault awareness initiative nationwide were discussed. <http://www.enoughviolence.com/>
- Update on eNOugh Campaign – A short video documentary on domestic violence and cycle of abuse was played. This documentary is currently available on Youtube. The eNOugh campaign is the pledge for financial support for domestic violence and sexual assault victims (which are geared towards all genders). <http://www.enoughviolence.com/learn-more/hope-video/>
- Planning an upcoming event: WRAL/Fox 50 discussed the Partners Dinner at the Fox 50 News Center, June 5, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. An invitation to attend is extended to the Council for Women Board and the Domestic Violence Commission members. Ms. Amanda Lamb, WRAL TV, will host the event with a panel of experts from Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault. The event is geared to seek out financial support from corporations and business owners to promote the eNOugh Campaign against DV and SA across NC.

**Comments and Suggestions from Commission members:**

- Commission members suggested corporations train their human resources management personnel to counsel staff members affected by domestic violence and sexual assault (DV&SA) abuse. It was noted that in some cases counseling at the place of employment would be beneficial. Ms. Kline noted that the eNOugh campaign in Charlotte partnered with Ms. Jennie Ward, Duke Energy to provide HR training for DV&SA services to identify signs in victims and address the situation in their company.
- Posting “Safe Zone” signs on windows or doors for victims to feel safe to express the abuse and get counseling from trained staff.
- Clarifications on financial support from sponsors through media/TV advertisement were discussed. It was noted that the eNOugh campaign is a public service campaign. The advertisements help pay and support the campaign. Ms. Kline informed the Council that the grant funding and private sector funding will help to pay for advertisement run during prime time.
- It was indicated that Capitol Broadcasting Company has agreed to match the pledge.
- Ms. Kline asked Council members to invite corporations and business owners to attend and support the event.
- Questions were asked as to “how will the campaign help the CFW?”

- It was suggested that Council for Women's name be included in the advertisement for recognition and branding.
- Posting a National hotline number to refer victims to specialized personnel was suggested.
- Commission members thanked the representatives from WRAL/Fox 50 TV News for their presentation.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA:**

##### **Discussion:**

- CFW website programs and resources "how does the link work?"
- Mrs. Wilkins informed the Council that the Division receives phone calls from victims seeking counseling and assistance. She noted that the Division acts as a referring agency and provides the victims with the 1-800-799-safe (7233) number or local contact number to seek help.
- Mrs. Wilkins clarified that Board could refer corporations and business owners to the Division of CFW first.
- Mrs. Wilkins indicated that she will contact Ms. Jennie Ward, Duke Energy regarding the HR training on DV&SA abuse training and will bring the recommendations to the next Council for Women Board meeting on August 14, 2014.
- Questions were asked regarding the national hotline number.
- It was noted that the national hotline number refers the victims to the local agency and to the CFW office or website. The website lists all programs affiliated with DV&SA by counties in North Carolina.

#### ***Continuation of item VIII***

CFW's Advisory Board Legislative Policy Issues: It was noted that Ms. Rhonda Todd, Legislative Assistant will address the Council after the General Assembly reconvenes in June 2014. She will address the reactivating of the grant funding received from DHHS. Mrs. Minter informed the Council that the General Assembly will be preparing a two year budget. Suggestions were made that the Division utilizes its time to plan its strategies and coordinate with the Department of Administration to advocate on its behalf at the General Assembly.

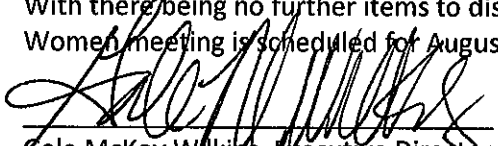
#### **OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS CONTINUATION:**

- Mrs. Wilkins shared information with the meeting she had with Senator Woodard regarding the loss for the funding of the Displaced Homemaker (DH) program. Strategies for phasing out DH programs and maintaining services for clients were discussed. Mrs. Wilkins requested help from Senator Woodard on funding issues. She noted that Ms. Rhonda Todd and Mrs. Tara Minter were present at the meeting.
- Mrs. Wilkins indicated that she will share more information on women's issues such as mental health at the August 2014 meeting.
- Commissioner Joyce Krawiec informed that she will be meeting with Representative Mark Bend from the Legislator's office regarding CFW funds. She noted that once funds were cut, it is hard to get the funds back.
- Questions were asked on roles of the Council as to informing the Governor and the General Assembly.
- It was suggested that Council should promote and brand the work of the Division of the Council for Women at the General Assembly.
- Mrs. Wilkins noted that she is constantly in touch with the Governor's office and its Community Constituents Affairs.

- Commissioner Karen Popp suggested that the CFW Board inform the Governor on Women's issues. Suggestions were made to Council to meet with their legislators to promote the work of the Council for Women on women's issues and its impact on women.
- Commissioner Karen Popp also suggested that the Council inform the Governor on a future women's summit on "Women in Business" in the State of North Carolina with a focus on how to improve the economy of North Carolina. Bring women in leadership roles together to have a round table conference to solve the problem "Business Women's Association". She noted that women should be a part of this effort *"Women should support Women to bring more equity in the state to find startup companies"*.
- Suggestions were also made to contact women in the General Assembly to support this cause and bring them to the round table conference.
- In conclusion, Council member Popp noted that the initiative of "Women in Business" needs to be promoted and that the Division of Council for Women also should be concerned with these issues. She requested that the Council for Women Board contact the Governor in writing.
- Commission members noted that the CFW Board advises the Governor on key issues impacting the lives of women. Getting more jobs and improving the economy in the state of NC will help women.
- It was suggested to contact the Department of Commerce regarding a listing of Business Groups identifying business owners.
- Mrs. Wilkins expressed that she will contact women in leadership roles for the event in September 2014. It was noted that she will be contacting members of the Council for names, contact information and suggestions.
- Representatives from Blue Cross Blue Shield contacted Mrs. Wilkins at a recent meeting to be a part of their panel to promote the programs and resources of the Council for Women.
- Mrs. Wilkins expressed that the CFW is more than domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. She informed the Council about the "2015 Women Summit", "Women's and Girls' Alliance". She is looking for a keynote speaker and organizing the event with breakout sessions.
- Chairwoman West recapped on all the items discussed.
- Suggestions were made to forward the photographs taken by Mr. Jayce Williams to local representatives stating that "They are honored to represent their "County (name the County)".
- Suggestions were also made to write to local papers to promote the Council for Women.

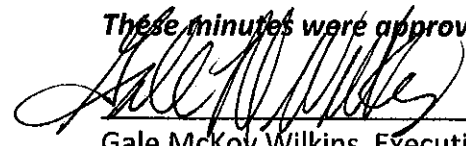
#### X. ADJOURNMENT:

With there being no further items to discuss the meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m. The next Council for Women meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2014, at the DENR HQ Building.

  
Gale McKoy Wilkins, Executive Director  
Division of Council for Women, Raleigh, N.C.  
(Sign & Date)

 8-14-14  
Daphne Pinto, Recording Secretary  
(Sign & Date)

***These minutes were approved by the NC Council for Women Board on August 14, 2014.***

  
Gale McKoy Wilkins, Executive Director  
(Sign & Date)

## **Statistics on Human Trafficking (HT)**

Human Trafficking is a \$32 Billion dollar industry. It is estimated that North Carolina ranks in the top TEN for human trafficking in the United States.

Reasons why NC is a hotspot for HT:

- Major highways (I-40, I-85, I-95, etc. all come through our state)
- Large military presence with a transient population
- Huge agricultural community
- Eastern NC ports and large rural areas

30% of human trafficking is done by family/ caretakers.

As many as 2.8 million children live on the streets, a third (about 40,000) of whom are lured into prostitution within 49 hours of leaving home.

About 500,000 children in the U.S. currently reside in some form of foster care.

One in twenty five children (ages 10-17) receive an online sexual solicitation, where the solicitor tried to make offline contact.

Over 65% of minors arrested for prostitution in the US have been victims of sexual assault and/or family molestation.

74% of youth that ran away from home have had a prior arrest(s).

Out of 46 minors involved in prostitution, 45 of them had a history of physical and/or sexual abuse.

***Every 30 seconds a child is being exploited.***

According to the 2010 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, there are

- 12.3 million people in forced labor, bonded labor, forced child labor, and sexual servitude at any given time.
- 80% are women and girls, with over 100,000 women and children trafficked in the United States each year.
- The average age of entry is between 12-14 years.